

The US Consulate General in Jerusalem presents

an afternoon

of Gospel, Jazz, and Blues Music



With American Musicians

Janice Harrington, Rick Cotton, and Fontaine Burnett

February 11, 2008 3:00 p.m. Jerusalem

Please visit the U.S. Consulate's website at http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov for coverage of today's concert and more information on other Consulate news and outreach activities.

Janice Harrington's vocal career began in 1969 with tours to South East Asia, where she performed for the United States military in various U.S.O. shows during the Vietnam War. She was a featured performer at the Las Vegas Flamingo Hotel from 1975 through 1977. During this time she was also in lead roles in the National tours of "Norman Is That You" and "Two Gentlemen from Verona", and was also in the American television series "Days of Our Lives".

Janice went on to work with such artists as Billy Daniels, Lloyd Bridges, Frank Sinatra Jr., Sammy Davis Jr. and Lionel Hampton, who told her "Two 'Aries' should not work together and she should get her own show," which she proceeded to do by moving to Europe in 1980.

In Europe, Janice has performed at the opening act for Joan Armatrading and for B. B. King and was invited to sing for Bishop Desmond Tutu in Oslo after he received the Nobel Peace Price. She has also appeared in numerous radio and TV productions either as an opening act or as the guest soloist.

Janice has produced and written two albums and nine CD's and featured as a soloist on many other productions. She has written several musicals, "Streets of Harlem" and "What My Eyes Have Seen". She also performs Gala evenings under the titles of "A Tribute to Cole Porter" and "A Tribute to Dinah Washington". And the Gospel and Spiritual evening, "A Tribute to Mahalia Jackson".

Some highlights of Janice's career include producing the "North German Gospel And Spiritual Festival" since 1993, and being the guest soloist by special request of the American Ambassador to Poland to sing for the "First Anniversary in Memory of the Victims of 9/11". In 2003, as the Final Event for Black History Month, Janice was invited to perform in Georgia at the request of the American Ambassador.

Rick Cotton was born in the western state of Arizona, U.S.A. He, along with his three sisters, was blessed with the gift of music. From the very beginning he started making arrangements of songs he heard in church and it was not long before he found himself playing as the church pianist. By the age of 12, he had formed his own little Gospel group, which included himself and his sisters. This group later, around the time Rick matured to the age of 16, developed into a regionally known Gospel group called, "Gospel Notes". Rick quickly picked up and absorbed elements of Blues, Jazz, and Rock and Roll into his musical education. Next he traveled at the age of 18 to Alabama to attend an all black college. This inspired even more soul-searching revelations about music and its black heritage. Rick now lives in Germany.

Fontaine Burnett's first exposure to music came at an early age. His father, (a saxophonist who played in the Kansas City traditions of Jazz, Blues and R&B) gave him his first opportunity to delve into musical expression. It wasn't long before he had also begun with his first instrument: naturally, the saxophone. Fontaine passed quickly from the saxophone to the bass, where he began his career as a professional musician. First he performed with his father, but soon found himself in demand as a clubbing musician. The years progressed and Fontaine progressed with them by continually searching for knowledge and better possibilities for musical expression. This led him to add the keyboard, guitar and percussion to his bag of musical tricks. He also began his formal music training by accepting a scholarship to the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music. He had many opportunities to perform and exchange musical knowledge with world class musicians.

A job offer in Italy brought him to Europe, where he performed with local and national acts. In the years since he moved to Germany, Fontaine has expanded his resume to include many national and international acts on stage and in the studio.